

Application Serial No.: 10/617,403  
Amdt. dated December 23, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of October 3, 2005

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The Office Action dated October 3, 2005 and the references cited therein have been carefully considered. In response to the Office Action, Applicants have canceled Claim 17 and amended Claims 18, 20 and 21 which, when considered with the remarks set forth below, are deemed to place the case in condition for allowance. As a result of the present Amendment, Claims 1-16 and 18-22 remain in the case for continued prosecution.

In the Office Action, the drawings have been objected to as being informal. In response, Applicant submits herewith replacement formal drawings. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the drawing objection has been overcome.

Also in the Office Action, Claims 1-16 have been allowed and Claims 18-20 have been deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 17, 21 and 22, however, have been rejected based on prior art.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In response, Applicant has canceled rejected Claim 17, rewritten allowable Claim 18 in independent form and amended rejected Claims 21 and 22 to depend from allowable Claim 18. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-16 and 18-22 now stand in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, favorable consideration and allowance of the application with Claims 1-16 and 18-22 are respectfully solicited. If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would assist in moving the application toward

Application Serial No.: 10/617,403  
Amdt. dated December 23, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of October 3, 2005

allowance, he is respectfully invited to contact the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



---

Steven T. Zuschlag  
Registration No.: 43,309  
Attorney for Applicant

HOFFMANN & BARON, LLP  
6900 Jericho Turnpike  
Syosset, New York 11791  
(516) 822-3550  
STZ/cb  
213504\_1